

AA-2067

Java Farm, (Robert Lee Forrest Farm)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 06-11-2004

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JAVA FARM

and/or common ROBERT LEE FORREST FARM

2. Location

street & number near Muddy Creek Rd. (Java Farm) ___ not for publication

city, town Mayo ___ vicinity of ___ congressional district

state MD county AA

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Smithsonian Institution map 60/parcel 11 (350 a. IMPS)

street & number 1000 Jefferson Drive SW telephone no.:

city, town Washington state and zip code DC 2000

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 1713

street & number folio 5

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-2067

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☒ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Java Farm Superintendant's House was abandoned c. 1940 - is now very delapidated, overgrown.

The house faces east, a 3-bay 1½-story side-gabled frame house, with right rear 1½-story cross-gabled el, and 1-story shed. Full-width front-porch shed roof.

I-house plan: center hall, stairway rising from rear toward front of house.

Large chimney in central hall space, east of stair. Fireplace in north wall of south parlor. All interior walls plastered, no wallpaper.

Brick foundation 2½' high, parged over.

Cedar shingles over original German-siding weatherboard (6" wide boards).

Deep basement under el with huge old furnace.

Front porch roof collapsed.

Paired 8-pane casement windows either side front door and centered in south wall of main block. North wall, main block, contains sash windows, down and up.

Long shallow shed dormers, two facing east, 1 north (in el), containing square single-paned windows.

Square white asbestos shingles (14" sq.) placed diagonally on gable roof of main block, also on porch roof over top of tin and a tongue-and-groove beaded board ceiling.

Very wide (15-18") boxed eaves.

Casement windows swing inward; slatted wood shutters swing outward.

A bathroom shed addition behind south parlor contains old fixtures: overhead galvanized tin water tank with manufacturer's signature "Jos. Vo__? Wilmington".

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-2067

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

"Java" Farm was originally the name for all of John Contee's 1819-purchased property, approximately 600 acres south of the Sellman Farm (AA-147) and west of the Rhode River. This land had been occupied from 1652 to 1725 by three generations of the Sparrow family, per surveyor Amy Hiatt. It belonged to the Macubbin and Carroll families during the rest of the 18th century. The name "Java" was given to it by Contee, a naval lieutenant during the War of 1812, who commanded the USS Constitution in its capture of HMS Java. He used his bounty money to purchase the farm.

In 1859 John Contee divided his farm between his two sons Richard and Charles. After this date Charles' southern half retained the name "Java Farm", and Richard's northern half became known as "Contee Farm" (including the AA-146 Contee Hse. ruins).

Charles built a house on Java Farm which shows on the 1878 Hopkins Map and on the 1906 USGS map.

In 1915 Robert Lee Forrest purchased Java Farm from the owners Miles and Snyder who lived in Baltimore. (Liber GW119/Folio 427-430, 11/1/1915) The only structure on the farm at the time of purchase was a barn. During two years of non-stop construction activity (1915-1917), Forrest built a state-of-the-art dairy farm which he operated until c.1940. He built a barn for cattle, a house for himself, a superintendent's house c.1916 on top of the hill west of the farm entrance road (this is the site of Chas. Contee's 19th cen. hse.). He also built a house on Spring House Rd., a house at Fox Point, a diesel-powered generator bldg, a milk-bottling plant, a hay-dehydrating plant (the 1st of its type in MD), a dormitory for farmhands, a mule barn, and 6-7 other bldgs. (see accompanying map). In 1935 Java Farm supplied 300 customers with milk.

About 1940, with the arrival of WWII, Forrest had a hard time keeping farm help. He closed down his dairy operation, and continued living there by himself until c.1947. (In 1940 he prepared his will leaving his estate to the Smithsonian.) He died in Baltimore 10/30/62 at age 84, a lifelong bachelor.

The Java Farm buildings were vandalized and burned during Forrest's absence 1947-62. Several have been adapted for use as part of the Smithsonian's Rhode River Environmental Research Center. The superintendent's house is in ruins today (see description and sketch, accompanying).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. *AA 2067*

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name *South River Rd*Quadrangle scale *1:24000*

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title

Susan Wetherill

organization

A.A.Co. Planning & Zoning

date

July 1987

street & number

telephone

city or town

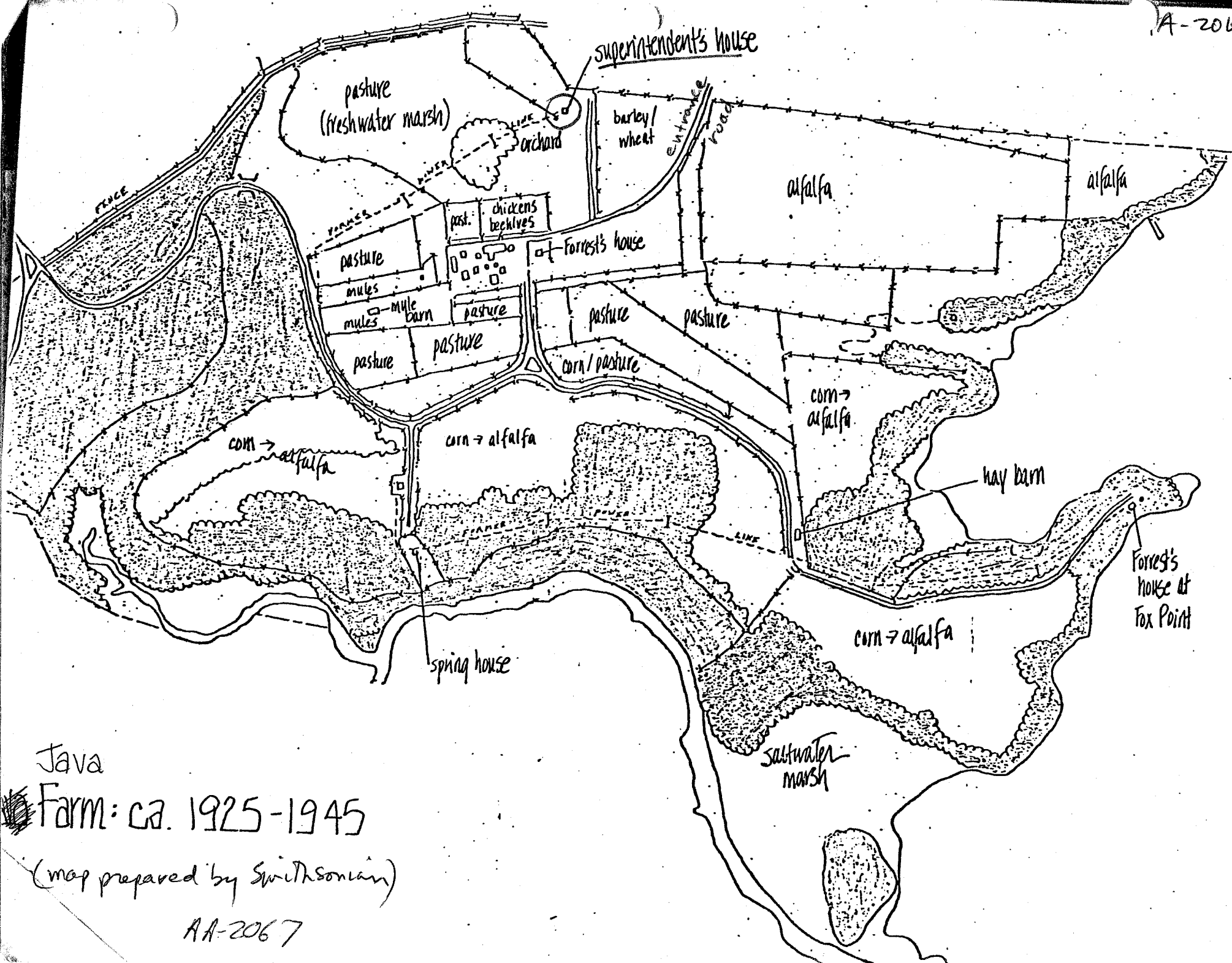
state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

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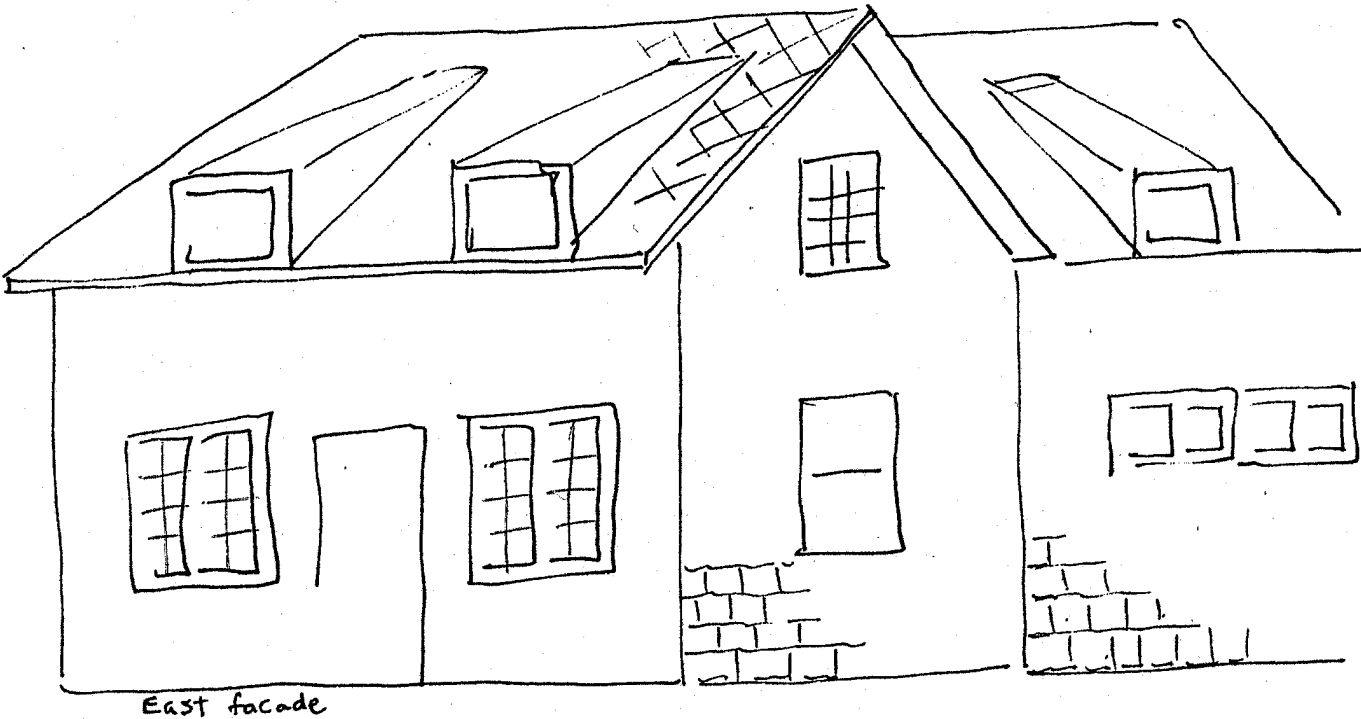


Java

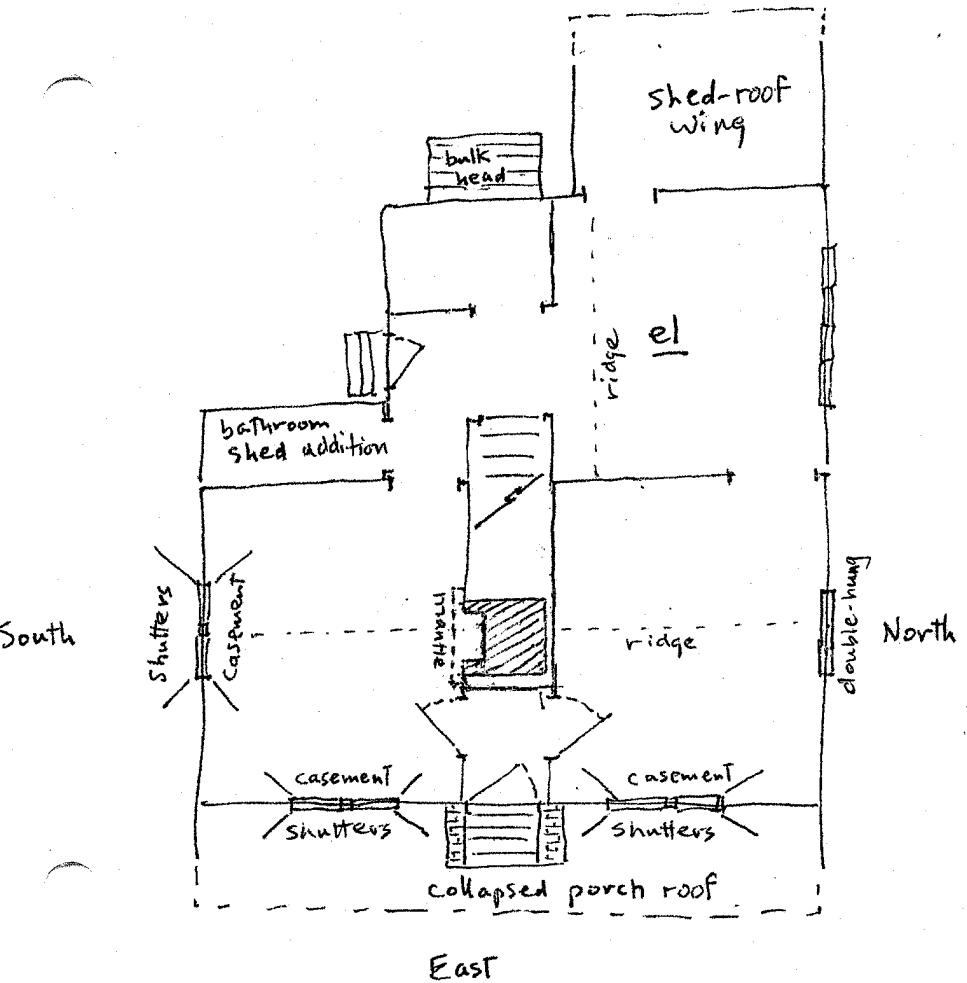
Farm: ca. 1925-1945

(map prepared by Smithsonian)

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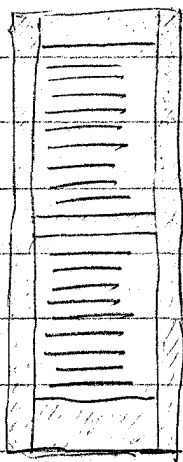
East facade



Sketched by S. Wetherill
6/22/87

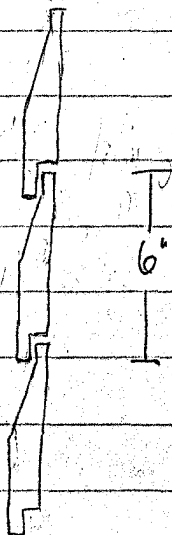
8/6/87
Java Farm

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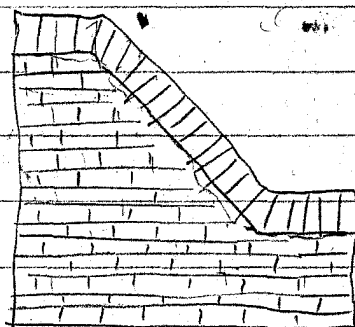
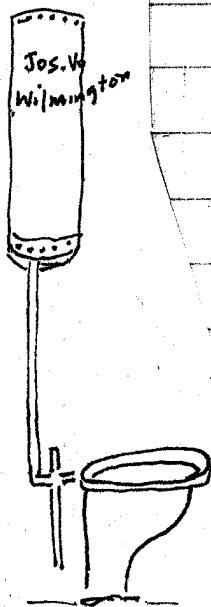


Shutters

weatherboard
siding under
wood shingles →

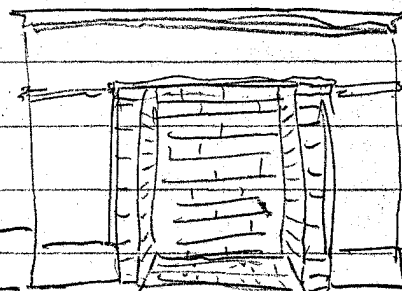


6"



profile of front steps

mantle, south parlor



Sketches by S. Wetherill

AA 2067 - Java Farm



AA-2067

JAVA FARM SUPERINTENDANT'S HSE.

Contees Wharf Rd.

A.A.Co. MD

S. Wetherill 6/87

N elev.